

LABOUR'S CHARTER

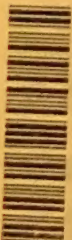
FOR
YOUNG
PEOPLE



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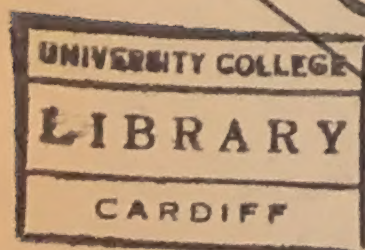
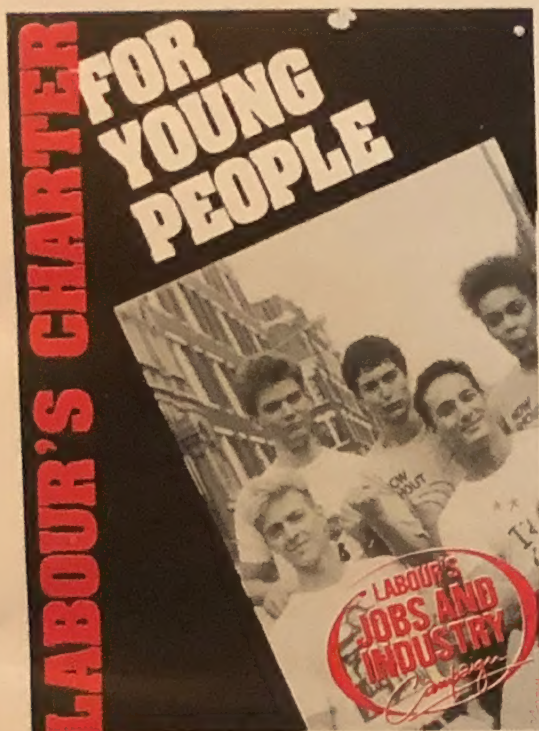
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LABOUR'S CHARTER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Labour believes young people should have opportunity, choice and independence. We want young people at 16 to have real jobs, good education and training — and a chance to earn as they learn.

- the right at 14 and 15 to good quality comprehensive education providing them with the skills, knowledge and confidence to have more control over their lives.
- the right at 16 to at least two years' education, training and work experience.
- the right at 16 and 17 to a negotiated wage if employed, with paid release to college; at least £36 a week training allowance if on a training scheme with trade unions negotiating a topping up;
- the right to £27 a week if in full-time study; with the right to supplementary benefit if unemployed.
- the right of all qualified young people 18 and above to a place in higher education and to be paid a living grant.
- the right of unemployed 18 to 24 year olds to more jobs and better training opportunities.
- the right to better housing opportunities: more rented accommodation and improved access to council housing.
- the right to sport and leisure facilities and a youth service which meets young people's needs and gives them a say in the running of their services.
- the right to equal opportunities regardless of race, gender, class or sexuality.
- the right to live in a safe, secure Britain — free of nuclear weapons.



YOUTH ON THE MOVE

Young people themselves have a critical part to play in bringing about the changes in policies and attitudes which are needed. This is International Youth Year; the major theme is participation.

Many young people are already involved in organising a better deal for themselves and their generation. They are campaigning in a positive, constructive way. They express themselves in different ways from music to demonstration, from debate to industrial action.

A diverse and vital youth movement is essential in building a fully democratic society which is responsive to young people's needs and in which they can enjoy their youth and fully contribute to the life of their communities.

How can young people change society?

IN TRADE UNIONS

More and more young people should join trade unions. Trade unionists should be invited into schools and colleges to discuss with young people the benefits of trade union membership. By acting together through trade unions, young people can improve the Youth Training Scheme — topping-up of the training allowance — and secure quality of training, increase wages and improve health and safety.

IN STUDENT UNIONS

Student unions don't just provide leisure facilities. They are organising locally and within the National

Union of Students for better grants, improved housing, more educational opportunities and more involvement in decision-making in their colleges.

IN THE YOUTH SERVICE

Young people should have the right to be involved in the running of their services. Youth organisations must give young people a greater voice and local youth councils should be actively supported.

There must be more opportunities for social studies and political education in youth clubs and schools informing young people of their civil and trade union rights and equipping them with the skills to think and act for themselves.

IN THE PEACE MOVEMENT

Many young people are actively involved in organisations like the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. The Labour Party is committed to securing a non-nuclear defence for Britain and contributing to a peaceful future for all the peoples of the world.

IN THE LABOUR PARTY

The Labour Party is working with youth for youth. It has its own active Young Socialists section with branches throughout the country. For students it also has the National Organisation of Labour Students with Labour Clubs in most colleges and universities.



'I quickly saw the problems faced by shopworkers — low pay, poor conditions, little if any respect — so I joined the union, USDAW soon after I started work. Only by acting together can we get change.'
 — Nick Hostettler, 23, store furniture porter.

INTRODUCTION: INDEPENDENCE AND CHOICE

Being young is about enjoying life, about opportunities, independence, and gaining experience.

The most important step in becoming an adult and taking on the responsibilities of life is having a job. Being in work gives young people independence and a new status. It gives them the money to make their own choices about clothes, about the places they go to and about the things they want to do. It introduces them to new relationships with friends at work and it enables them to move away from total dependence on their families. For most young people, a job is one of the single most important possessions they have.

Young people have potentially enormous talents, enthusiasm and a willingness to use them for the benefit of all the community.

But the chances to put their skills to work are not there:

- too many fourteen and fifteen year olds go to under-funded schools that don't equip them for life
- too many sixteen year old school leavers cannot find a job or have to endure the patchy quality of the Youth Training Scheme
- too many well qualified eighteen year olds cannot get a place at university
- and far too many 18-25 year olds have been condemned to long-term unemployment.

The old paths to an adult place in society are no longer there and the new ones like, YTS, lead back to the dole queue far too often.

Unless our society can create jobs for young people and help them prepare for work through the right education and training, we are denying opportunities to a whole generation.

This Charter for Youth is about the fundamental issues of jobs, pay, education, training and housing.



'Mrs Thatcher's government seems to treat youth like an illness which everyone must go through. Labour believes young people should have opportunity, choice and independence.'

— Neil Kinnock.



'I joined Youth CND when I was 14 because I was tired of hearing that young people don't have the power to change anything. We do. Youth in Britain is getting a rough deal in a number of ways and I'm backing Labour to get things right.' — Sarah Young, 17 at school.

LIFE UNDER THE TORIES

The present Government strips young people of the very rights that are so essential for independence — the right to jobs, good education and training, a decent income and better housing opportunities.

Since 1979, the Tories have put a thousand people on the dole for every day in office. About four million people are out of work. As many as 1.3 million 18-25 year olds can't get a job. Nearly half a million young people have not had a job since leaving school.

Few jobs

The Tories just don't care about the young unemployed. In March 1985, a group of 25 young people travelled to 10 Downing Street from Knowsley, Liverpool where only 6 per cent of last year's school leavers found work. Mrs Thatcher gave them tea, but no sympathy.... and certainly no jobs.

"She just would not answer questions. All she said was next please. It was like being in a supermarket. It was unbelievable."

— Ray Rankin Aged 19. Unemployed.

Mrs Thatcher told them to find full-time jobs by looking around for lodgings, as she did when she was young, and start up their own businesses. But with what? With their savings from their £17.30 supplementary benefit or their £26.25 training allowance?

Norman Tebbit tells them to get on their bike to find work. But for every job vacancy at a careers office, there are 60 teenagers looking for one.





Training for what?



Britain needs a well educated highly skilled workforce. But education and training standards in schools and colleges are declining. Large class sizes and lack of text books and essential equipment in schools are undermining the educational opportunities of young people.

For those leaving school, very few — especially young women — get training. Apprenticeships have been halved since 1979. Those who are sixteen, particularly those without a job, can join the Youth Training Scheme for one year.

YTS was to be a bridge to work. But more and more sixteen year olds see it as a gang plank to unemployment. Only just over half get jobs at the end of their year's training. The plan is to extend YTS, by 1986, to places lasting two years for all unemployed 16 year olds; and to one year for 17 year old unemployed school and college leavers.

The Tories use YTS to fiddle the employment figures. A great many young people see it as a cheap labour scheme.

No wonder only three quarters of places are filled — and that over a quarter of trainees leave the scheme early.

The Tories state that £3 billion spent on fighting the miners 'the enemy within' was a "worthwhile investment". **The 'real enemy within' is youth unemployment.** Yet the amount spent on the miners' dispute is three times the money to be spent on training our young people.

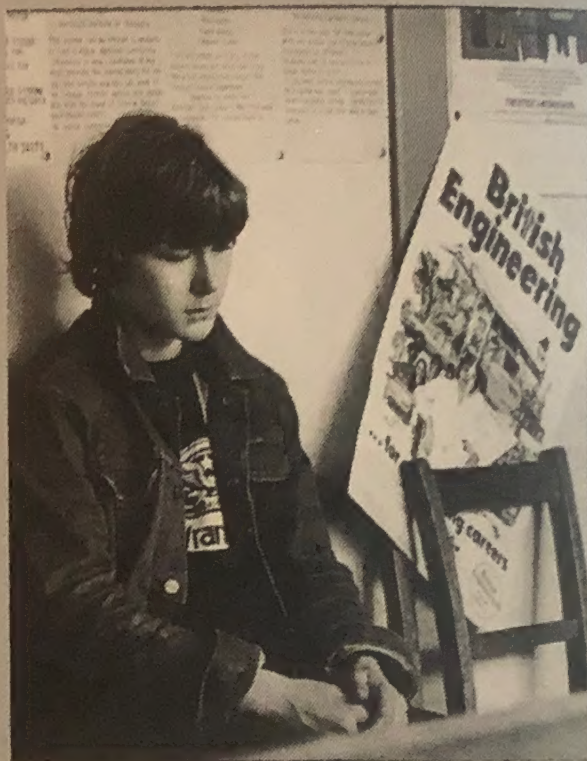
PRICING THEMSELVES OUT?

The Tories say young people are pricing themselves out of a job. This is simply untrue:

- young workers' pay rose by 5 per cent less than adults between 1978 and 1984; yet their unemployment rose by nearly twice as much.

- the Government's Young Workers Scheme — which was aimed at bribing employers to cut wages below £50 a week — is a flop. So few jobs have been created that the Tories are abolishing the scheme in 1986.

The Tories are now threatening to abolish wages councils — or at the very least removing young workers from their protection. They set minimum rates of pay for nearly 3 million low paid workers. Without them employers would be allowed to exploit young people even more. Britain would decline



even further into a low wage, sweatshop economy. No new jobs would be created.

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Onslow Hall, Little Green, Richmond, Surrey.

Ken Castle
President

Ken Gill
General Secretary

Low income



Young people's standards of living are falling. Whether on a wage, training allowance, student grant, without a grant having to rely on parents, or on the dole.

- for the vast majority of young people wishing to continue in full-time education, there are no grants or educational maintenance allowances. Only those whose parents can afford to keep them can continue in full-time study. The Tories stubbornly refuse to provide young people under 18 with grants.
- even students aged 18 and above are denied grants if they are not on higher education or specially designated courses. Grants for part-time study are non-existent.
- the value of student grants has fallen by 14 per cent under the Tories; more and more students have to rely on parental contributions or are even forced to borrow money from banks.
- the Tories are threatening to introduce student loans — pay as you learn. They have already tried unsuccessfully, to charge parents course fees.
- those on YTS are paid a totally inadequate allowance of £26.25 a week. Only a very few trainees are able to get this topped through collective bargaining.
- supplementary benefit is cut if trainees leave YTS early. The government is proposing a real cut in benefits for young people.
- changes to the supplementary benefit regulations concerning board and lodgings payments to young people — will result in the eviction of as many as 50,000 young people, harried from one part of the country to another.

Housing problems



The decline of the private rented sector — and the failure of the public sector to provide for the young, particularly young single people — has pushed them to the back of the housing queue. In some parts of the country they are not even allowed to join the queue — for a number of local authorities still do not permit young people to register on the waiting list.

As a result, housing problems among young people are on the increase. The unprecedented number of homeless young people is a national disgrace.



Young women should have the same training opportunities as young men

YOUNG WOMEN AT WORK

Women at work, particularly young women, are still concentrated in the worst paid and lower grade jobs, earning less than three quarters of the average male wage. Women in paid employment still bear the main responsibility for looking after the family. Policies for investment and growth must meet the specific needs of women.

We give priority to fair wages and an offensive against low pay. By strengthening Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination legislation. By in-

troducing equal rights for part-time workers. And by changing the tax and social security system to eliminate inequality.

More flexible working hours are needed as well as better parental leave, expanded childcare facilities. And positive action for women must be introduced at work and in training and education. These policies are set out in Labour's *Charter for Women and Work*.

A FUTURE THAT WORKS



A selection of Labour's Jobs and Industry T-Shirts from a collection designed by The Cloth, The Grey Organisation, Bodymap, and Katharine Hamnett.

We need the skills, and talents and enthusiasm of young people to put Britain back to work. We must invest money in our future by harnessing technological change for the good of the community. The working week should be reduced and leisure expanded. Old industries will be modernised and new industries set up. We will ensure that new technology produces a growing demand for goods and services — and new jobs for youth.

The public sector will have to lead the way back to work — through public investment, for example in building all the things Britain needs and in improving the environment. And through a major expansion of the caring services — which is where the greatest number of jobs can come from.

Building projects, in particular, are labour intensive and use few imports. It just doesn't make sense to keep 500,000 construction workers unemployed while four million people live in bad housing and our public facilities fall into decay - transport, hospitals, schools.

How many factories could be modernised, houses built, training places provided and jobs created if the £19,000 million of public money that is paid each year to people who want to work, not to work, was invested in British industry and in public projects?



NEW SKILLS FOR A NEW BRITAIN

Our country needs highly skilled, adaptable and imaginative young people to modernise our industries and improve our public services.

A more caring and compassionate society needs young men and women who have the experience and skills to understand the problems of others and to help them solve them.

A truly democratic society depends upon informed young people who are able to make more decisions about their own lives and participate actively in the community.

Good schooling

In Labour's **Charter for Pupils and Parents** we proposed the following rights:

- **the right to good quality education** in comprehensive schools, for all secondary pupils — a firm foundation for working life and further education.
- **the right to a broad curriculum** with more subjects to choose from — providing both academic knowledge and practical skills.
- **the right to free, well-funded schools** with sufficient text books and equipment such as micro computers.
- **the right to more teachers** to reduce class sizes and for more appropriately qualified teachers specifically in subjects such as craft, design and technology and physics.
- **the right of girls and boys to have equal educational opportunities** within a common core of learning and to be encouraged to take up subjects and choose careers which have hitherto been regarded as the preserve of one sex.
- **the right to an education which values our multiracial society** and which promotes race equality and roots out racism.
- **the right at 16 to receive a profile of achievement** which accurately records progress throughout secondary education including public examination results and pupils' overall contribution to the life of the school. It would become a passport to jobs and further education opportunities.



Learning for life

16 to 18: a new approach



Schools must prepare young people in their transition to adult status:

- **information about the outside world** — young people are entitled to a balanced view of modern society through information about the political system, the role of trade unions, civil rights and world issues such as peace and development. They have a right to the critical skills needed to develop their own views.
- **the chance for a say in their lives** — young people are entitled to a voice in their schools and youth organisations. They should be encouraged to make collective representations to head teachers and governing bodies. Representatives of senior pupils should be co-opted on to such bodies to present the student's point of view. Young people should have more say in running youth clubs.

Labour proposes to rationalise and integrate full-time study, the first years of apprenticeship and the YTS — offering 16 and 17 year olds a wide range of opportunities — in education, training and work experience.

Schools and colleges will be 'open access' — opening their doors to young people from all types of background and with different attainment. Young people will:

- **be encouraged to choose** areas of knowledge and types of skills which meet their interests, aptitudes and aspirations.
- **work out their own personal learning programme** with the help of school and college tutors. The tutors would advise young people on how to maintain breadth and balance through combining academic with vocational subjects, and how to avoid over-specialisation.
- **progress at their own pace.** On successfully completing a course unit, they would be awarded a credit and then move on to study another unit.
- **receive a recognised qualification** in the form of a certificate or profile at 18, as they would at 16. It would record the number, type and level of credits obtained over the two years. This would be a further passport to jobs and further and higher education opportunities.

The Labour Party will offer more chances for young people to enter further and higher education at 18 and beyond by opening up more full-time and part-time routes to a wider group of students.

Training

The Labour Party and the TUC, in *A Plan for Training*, have set out a comprehensive programme for training all 16-18 year olds. They propose:

- **the YTS should be transformed** into a high quality two year training scheme for all 16 and 17 year old school leavers.
- **extensive craft training** with more modernised apprenticeships.
- **a legal duty on employers to train** all young workers to a required standard and release them to college.
- **more trade union control** over schemes. Trade unions on Area Manpower Boards to approve and monitor schemes and press for the rejection of those where quality is below standard or job substitution prevalent.
- **more involvement of trainees** at the workplace reviewing schemes with their unions and management.
- **action to promote equal opportunities** for young women in schemes, and for black and Asian trainees — including proper representation in the running of training schemes. If necessary, by running special courses for them.
- **high health and safety standards.** The high incidence of serious and, sometimes fatal, accidents at the workplace must be ended.
- **training schemes must be entirely voluntary.** All young people should have the right to full supplementary benefit whether they do not wish to enter a scheme or whether they leave one early.



'I got involved in the students' union at college, and when the government said it was looking at ways of making students have loans instead of grants that was the last straw. I felt I wanted to oppose this and joined the Labour Party.'
— Sam Akinlaogbe, student.

EARN AS YOU LEARN

Real choice in education and training means financial support and independence whatever route a young person takes. This doesn't mean that they will all be paid the same. We believe someone in work — or involved in work experience on a training scheme — will be paid more than someone on a full-time course.

The key is providing a minimum level of support and that routes can

be changed during the two years. This is how 'Labour's Earn as you Learn' scheme would work.

There would be three paths at 16;

- **at work**, young people would continue to receive a negotiated wage. But they would also have the right to paid release to college for off-the-job education and training. Their employer would be given a legal duty to release them on request.



'Young women can see all the problems around us, and those with young families must especially worry. I'm really pleased Labour is prepared to have a go.' — Jenny Yorke, 21, accident claims processer.

HOUSING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We need to increase public provision in this area to ease the pressures on young people leaving home — and on the parents and relatives they live with. Labour believes that local authority rented accommodation should be more accessible and meet young people's needs. Labour is discussing the following measures with local authorities and young people before finalising its policies:

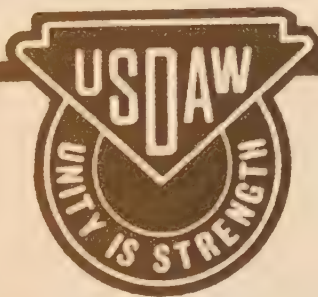
- **providing opportunities** for more rented housing, particularly furnished accommodation, to cater for young people
- **outlawing discrimination** against young people over 16 registering on housing waiting lists
- **giving young people** at 16 the right to have protected tenancies, and encourage councils to offer council housing to 16 and 17 year olds who need it
- **encouraging local authorities** to assess the housing needs of young people in their area and give them higher priority
- **extending the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act** to define homeless young people as having "priority need" under the Act, and encourage the development of appropriate housing aid services for young people.

- **if on a new training scheme**, the basic training allowance would be increased from £26.25 to at least £36 a week. More young trainees should join trade unions so that they can negotiate a 'topping up' of the allowance — or even better, a contract of employment during or at the end of their training. That way they can get a negotiated wage.

- **if young people continue in full-time education at school or go on to college**, they would have the right to an educational maintenance award. £27 would be paid to them each week.

At 18 we would improve the level of support to encourage more working class students into further and higher education. We aim to:

- **substantially improve the level of the student grant.**
- **designate more higher and further education courses for grant purposes.**
- **provide financial support for those in part-time study.**
- **as a matter of urgency, look into ways of making students more financially independent and oppose any introduction of student loans.**



USDAW
says:

**Working
women
and young
people need
trade unions
and legal
protection.**

**Industrial ends
need political
means!**

PRESIDENT:
Syd Tierney

GENERAL SECRETARY:
Bill Whatley

**Union of Shop,
Distributive and Allied Workers
188 Wilmslow Road, Fallowfield,
Manchester M14 6LJ.**

LABOUR WORKING NOW

Labour's policies are working now. Throughout Britain, Labour local authorities have launched a wide range of radical and exciting youth initiatives. They are paving the way for a new deal for youth under a Labour Government:

- *school students* are being helped to stay on in education at 16. The Inner London Education Authority pays educational maintenance allowances to 16 and 17 year olds at school.

- *young workers* are being offered good training opportunities. One scheme in Cleveland pays some trainees on YTS allowances at local government rates of pay. The council also provides a two year training programme for young unemployed people who have left YTS. West Midlands County Council is funding 3 year craft training for apprentices and supporting redundant apprentices to continue their apprenticeship. Birmingham Council is funding training centres for unemployed young women.

- *free recreation* is being provided by many cities. In Sheffield, the young unemployed have had free access to playing fields, golf courses and sport centres. With the Passport to Leisure Scheme, Sheffield school pupils from 8 to 18 will have free access to these facilities 9-5 on weekdays and during school holidays.

- *listening to young people* — Wolverhampton Council has pioneered an exciting review of their youth policy. First listening to young people through an indepth survey and shaping its policies in the light of the attitudes and life experiences of the young people themselves.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR



The Conservative Government has shown hollow support of International Youth Year as instanced when these young people went to Downing Street to see Mrs Thatcher about unemployment in the north west — but were given the brush-off.

This is International Youth Year — its themes are peace, development and participation. Only Labour has policies to meet these challenges.

ON PEACE

Labour's defence policies will reduce the risks of a nuclear holocaust, money will be spent creating worthwhile jobs not on nuclear arms — on fighting the evils of unemployment, poverty and disease.

ON DEVELOPMENT

Labour will provide better education and training to help young people develop the skills for adult life, more jobs to provide income and self respect and more independence.

ON PARTICIPATION

Labour will give young people a real say in education, in the youth service and at work. There will be genuine opportunities to learn and to practice the rights of citizenship and make their own contributions to the wider community. More and more young people will be welcomed into the Labour Party and trade unions, working for a brighter future and a better society.

All Labour is saying is 'give youth a chance'.

More booklets or T-Shirts?

If you would like more copies of this booklet (35p each) or any of the Jobs and Industry Campaign T-Shirts featured on page 11 (£6.99 plus 50p postage and packing) write to Labour Party Sales, 150 Walworth Road, London, SE17.

Labour — working together for Britain

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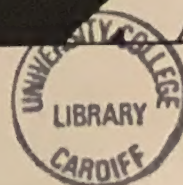
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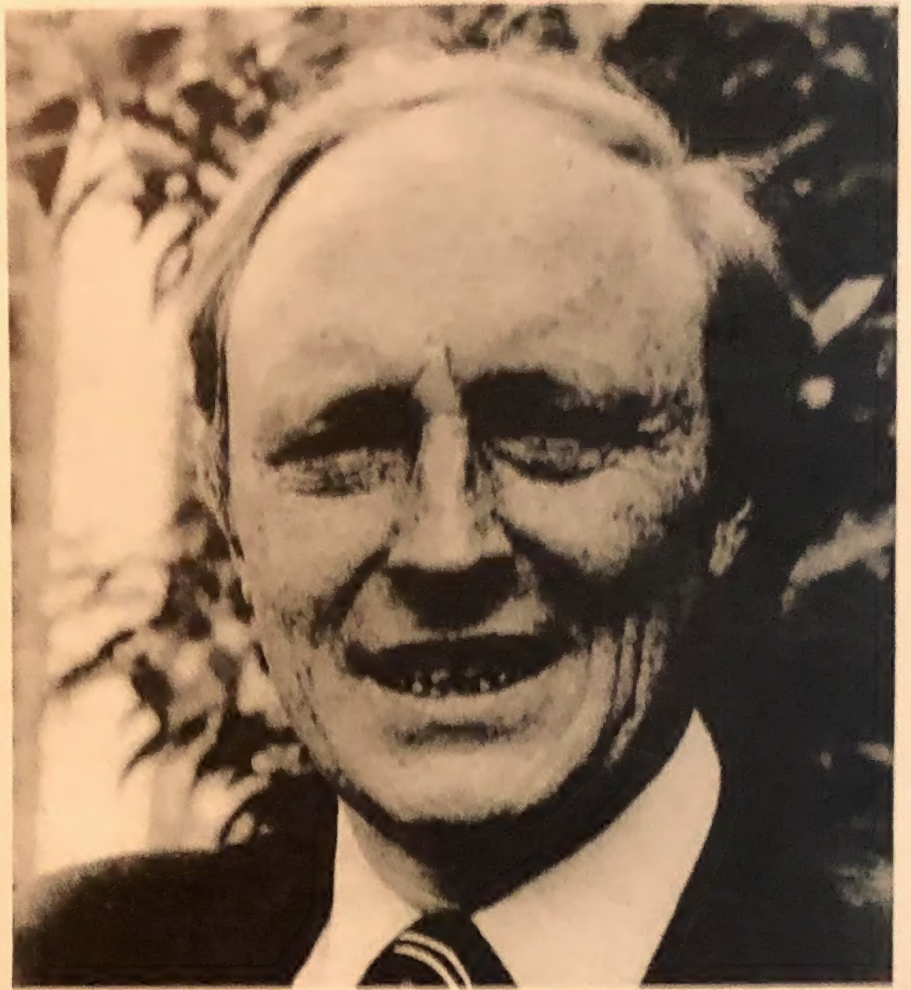


JOIN NUPE THE UNION THAT CAMPAIGNS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

NUPE demands:

**Jobs
Decent wages
Dignity**





“ Young people are our future. Their plight under this government is a blight on Britain’s future. We must modernise our education system and build a modern economy, which will generate jobs for young people. Labour backs young people. That’s why young people are backing labour. Together, we can build a better future. ”

Neil Kinnock